



UP-VALLEY MICU, scheduled to go into service next month, was topic of discussion for area ambulance corps members and others involved in the new emergency care service at meeting held last week at West Side Hose Co., Carbondale. Leading discussion and answering questions are, from left, Ann Manning, RN, MICU critical care coordinator, Community Medical Center; Dan O'Rourke, Up-Valley MICU chairman; Jay O'Malley, Lackawanna County community affairs director. See story this page. (MIRROR photo by Ros-Al)

New MICU will soon go into service in up-valley

By PETE SMITH

It looks like the upvalley area will see its new Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MICU-II) pressed into service on Nov. 15 if everything proceeds according to plan.

This announcement was made by Danny O'Rourke at a special meeting held recently at the West Side firehouse in Carbondale. The session was a planned orientation meeting scheduled for area ambulance attendants in an effort to clear any questions that might have arisen regarding the unit's operation.

Attending the meeting besides O'Rourke were Ann Manning, chairman of the Scranton-based Mobile I unit, and Jay O'Malley, representing the county's Department of Community Affairs who, according to O'Rourke, "was with us from day one on this project." Also in attendance at the meeting was Michael Eckrodt, assistant administrator at St. Joseph's Hospital, Carbondale, where the new unit will have its base of operations.

O'Rourke, himself a member of the Clifford volunteer ambulance, reported that the new unit, a 1981 Chevrolet Suburban four-wheel drive, was 90 percent complete and all that was needed was some wiring work to be done by A. Dancheck of Kingston and that the unit still had to be equipped with some telemetry equipment.

Ms. Manning reported to the crowd that a total of 25 paramedics, some Level One and others Level Two, will staff the upvalley unit. She added that once the Nov. 15 date arrives, she hopes to have 19 paramedics to man the unit — 11 of them will be Level Two while the other eight will have a Level One status. "We also hope to hire seven EMT-1's (Emergency Medical Technicians) to bring a total of 25 to staff the unit."

In discussing the staffing of the vehicle, Ms. Manning said, "In this area we will have a senior paramedic and a junior paramedic, or a senior paramedic and an EMT-1 driver. Two people will be responding on a call with the unit." She added that the patients will have a choice of which hospital they would like to go to providing it's in the service area of the new unit. The unit, she said, in response to questions from some attendants, will not travel to Susquehanna or to Wayne Memorial Hospital, but the unit will cover Clifford Twp., Forest City-Uniondale area, and Waymart.

Mutual aid

One of the most important points stressed

during the meeting was the importance of cooperation and mutual aid with the local ambulance volunteers. O'Malley, who works closely with the Lackawanna County Communications Center, explained that when an ambulance is toned out for a call, Mobile II will also be toned out simultaneously.

Then, he continued, it is up to the discretion of the ambulance crew when they reach the scene to determine if the unit is needed at the call. If it isn't needed, the call for the unit should be cancelled. "No paramedic would mind turning back if the call should be cancelled," O'Malley said.

What type of calls would Mobile II most likely respond to? "Victims of cardiac arrest — yes, and we'd like to get to the cardiac victim before they have an arrest — anybody who's unconscious for some unknown reason, severe head, neck, and spine injuries, or anything that is determined to need advanced life support, diabetes, emergency OB (not necessarily an advanced life support call, but it's kind of nice to have someone there who knows how to deliver a baby)."

Responding to a question of an attendant from the William Walker Hose Company, Mayfield, O'Rourke stressed the need for good mutual aid between the towns and boroughs. The argument, Mary Arthur, asked what would happen if a call came in and the ambulance unit was responding, but the ambulance couldn't get a crew. "This could happen during the daytime hours, especially," she noted.

"This is where mutual aid would come in handy," O'Rourke answered. "A household ambulance should then be toned out as a backup. This is important to have good mutual aid between the towns to avoid such an occurrence." Ms. Manning echoed that same feeling when she stressed earlier that in order for this new system to become viable, ambulance corps must have good response time.

No questions?

When O'Malley, O'Rourke, and Ms. Manning asked the people present if there were any questions to be asked, the audience was silent. Later, O'Rourke told the MIRROR, "I was very surprised when we asked for questions and no one seemed to have any, but then it says something for us, hopefully, that they realize their role in making this venture a success."

O'Rourke stressed the importance of ask-

ing questions at the session. "Now is the time to ask any question you can possibly think of. We brought you all together so that when Mobile II is in operation, you'll understand both sides of the coin, what they expect of us and what we expect of them."

"It's the first time in Northeastern Pennsylvania that this type of vehicle is being used and there's a lot of people watching to see what the results are. The better briefed we are, the more success we will have."

There was one question regarding receiving simultaneous calls that came in for the unit. O'Malley noted that the dispatcher would have to make the judgment as to which call the unit should be sent on. He admitted that this type of situation could develop, and would have to be handled accordingly.

"We have to send it where it would be needed. It's up to the dispatcher to decide where the unit should go, but if it isn't needed at one call, and the ambulance at the scene realizes this, they should cancel it out so it could respond to the other call."

Ron Testano, a Level Two paramedic working on Mobile I in Scranton, gave ambulance attendants an idea what is expected of them when the mobile unit responds to a call. "First of all, if you are seeing CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) on a victim, do not stop. We'll need your assistance. Also, while we're enroute to the scene, we'd like to have some information concerning the patient; if it's a cardiac arrest, or whatever type illness, the patient's name, his age, vital signs, and any previous history."

Also, during the meeting, O'Rourke complimented St. Joseph's Hospital for all the facilities it has done at the hospital readying for the first day of service. "They have had their maintenance department working on the garage where the unit will stay, and their maintenance man, Steve Prymick, installed the cabinets in the back of the unit and did a beautiful job."

In closing the meeting, O'Rourke announced that a victory event is planned in the future at an undisclosed date. It will be at this event to be held at St. Joseph's Hospital, that those contributing time, money, and efforts will be honored.

Following the meeting, O'Rourke invited attendants to look over the unit, which was parked in the West Side Hose Company garage and ask any questions pertaining to its equipment or operation.

Carbondale General Hospital adds non-invasive vascular lab

Carbondale General Hospital has added a Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory to the services of its Cardiology Department, according to Richard A. Pascoe, executive director.

In announcing the addition of the laboratory, Pascoe stated, "With this Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory, Carbondale General continues its policy of providing new services to the people of the Carbondale area. The laboratory is one of only two such labs in northeastern Pennsylvania."

The Non-Invasive Vascular Lab is under the direction of Dr. Vincent dePaul Larkin, Jr., and utilizes "space age technology" to diagnose and detect peripheral vascular disease. According to Dr. Larkin, the lab's sophisticated machinery can detect arterial blockages which can lead to stroke, angina, and heart disease.

The results of the tests done in the lab can

also help doctors evaluate varicose veins and determine whether or not surgery is necessary.

"The vascular lab is an important diagnostic tool for physicians," Dr. Larkin said, "as the machinery is extremely accurate in detecting peripheral vascular disease. The tests done are strictly non-invasive; there are no needles or dyes used, only painless externally placed equipment."

Tests done in the Non-Invasive Vascular Lab have several important advantages over invasive tests such as angiography, which were done previously to obtain information. Non-invasive tests can be repeated for comparison before, after and during treatment to help physicians gauge the patient's progress. The tests can be done on both in-patient and out-patient basis, unlike angiography which requires the hospitalization of the patient.

Dr. Larkin explained that the vascular lab conducts three kinds of tests which produce data on how well the patient's veins and arterial circulation is working. Among those suffering from peripheral vascular disease are persons with atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries), cerebrovascular disease, other vein disorders, and victims of several traumas.

Dr. Larkin is assisted in the Non-Invasive Vascular Laboratory by technician Patricia Zerechak.

Dr. Larkin is a graduate of S.U.N.Y. Downstate, Brooklyn, N.Y. His surgical internship and residency were served at King's County Hospital and Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn, N.Y. His vascular training, both in surgery and non-invasive testing, was done at Brooklyn's Cumberland Medical Center. Dr. Larkin is also affiliated with Community Medical Center, Scranton.

Pre-school center gives refunds

The Home Intervention Program operated by St. Joseph's Center, Scranton, for pre-schoolers in Lackawanna County, Wayne and the 1981-82 program year. The announcement was made jointly by Sister Marian Denise Walsh, IHM, administrator of St. Joseph's Center, and Miss Marian McGraw, program director.

The program provides educational and therapeutic services to pre-schoolers from birth to five years of age, who live in the rural areas of the three counties.

The Home Intervention Program is funded by the Tri-County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program together with a supplemental grant from the Department of Public Welfare, made available through Public Law 99-113, an amendment of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Administrator is Michael Nazarek.

The purpose of the program is to achieve pre-schoolers in their homes, to achieve maximum parental involvement by demonstrating instructional and rehabilitative techniques to encourage parental input into the development of materials used by both parents and instructors; to provide parents with information about available community services; to assemble a team of professionals to devise an individual program plan geared to the needs of the child and to assess the on-going progress of the pre-schooler with special needs.

There are presently 32 children who receive these services on a year-round basis. The educational/therapeutic team is composed of special education teacher Patricia Whaley, Ann Marie Pulcini and Brenda Jones, physical therapist Lisa Dreher and speech therapist Mary Gaudet Labakas.

The Artisan Fire Company of Jermyn will hold its annual Turkey Party at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 7 at the fire hall on Maple Street.

Priests will include turkeys and cash, and buffet-style refreshments will be provided. Joe and Martin Tomeykowski are co-chairmen of the event.

The public is invited to attend.



PATRICIA ZERECHAK, technician, and Dr. Vincent dePaul Larkin, Jr., director of Carbondale General Hospital's new non-invasive vascular laboratory, one of only two in Northeastern Pennsylvania, test a patient for heart-related problems. See story this page. (General Hospital photo)

O'Malley promises city office

"I promise to be the first District Attorney to open a staffed office in the Carbondale area, and bring the criminal justice system to you, the citizens," Democratic candidate Attorney Todd O'Malley said recently, speaking at the home of Vito Nepa, 29 Ninth Avenue.

O'Malley also hammered away at the record of Ernie Preste, his Republican opponent. The rules of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court require a district attorney to bring a defendant to trial within 180 days of his conviction. O'Malley explained, "That is a rule that Paul Mazzoni worked under. While he was district attorney, only one case was dismissed for lack of speedy trial. That's an administrative record we can be proud of."

O'Malley pointed out that in Luzerne County, with a population twice the size of Lackawanna County, and a caseload twice the size of Preste's, DA Chester Marozzi has not lost one case in four years. "Lackawanna County has one of the worst records in this state, in bringing defendants to trial in the manner called for by law. This district attorney has lost case after case, many felonies such as arson and armed robbery, due to his administrative failure to bring the defendants to trial in a speedy manner. This is a record that no one could or would take time to talk with her and help her solve her problems."

"No wonder senior citizens in Lackawanna County are veritable prisoners in their homes and apartments," O'Malley concluded. "The District Attorney has repeatedly put criminals back on the street because of the lack of administrative talent to watch the calendar, and count to 180 days. Ernie Preste always claims to be the 'first.' These are facts no one can be proud of."

"This is another 'first' for this District Attorney, similar to his other 'first' — first DA to lose three major murder cases, including the Anshtrach Hotel fire, first DA to allow Scranton to burn while arsonists walk free; first DA to accept a fulltime salary, and be too busy at 3:45 p.m. to see a woman whose life was taken within a few short hours of leaving the DA's office, because no one could or would take time to talk with her and help her solve her problems."

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Fire and police weekly report

Incidents

Thursday, Oct. 22
Police are looking for a stolen vehicle belonging to Gary Smedley, 123 Fairbrook St., Carbondale. Smedley told police he parked his 1980 Chevrolet at Muir's gas station on Salem Avenue and discovered it missing at 2 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 23
Police reported that vandals used a rock to break a window at the McHugh residence, 31 Summit Ave., Carbondale. The damage was reported at 9:10 a.m., with patrolman Joseph Pilavague investigating.

Accidents

Tuesday, Oct. 20
Police cited a Carbondale man after he was involved in an accident at Canaan and Thorn Streets at 6:30 p.m.

John Whitlock, 178 Belmont St., Carbondale, was cited for driving under suspension and lack of registration, after he struck a car driven by Robert Ogazaly, 48 Summit Ave.,

Carbondale. Both cars were traveling west on Canaan Street at the time of the mishap. Patrolman Francis Coleman issued both citations and investigated the accident. He noted that Whitlock did not have any insurance as well.

Police impounded Whitlock's car after he was injured when cars operated by Theodore L. Clarkson, 245 Laurel Road, Reading, and Thomas V. Kellen, 40 S. Main St., Carbondale, collided on Cottage Street at 3:35 p.m. Patrolman Judy DePoti investigated.

Thursday, Oct. 22
A Vandenberg complained of neck pain after his car collided with another at Salem Avenue and Main Street at 5:15 p.m. The man was identified as Henry Tomasz, 553 Main St., Vandenberg. His car had collided with another operated by Francis Walsh, 1151 N. Main St., Forest City.

Patrolman Dominick Andiora investigated. Fifteen minutes earlier, a car operated by Edward Neary, 96 Seventh Ave., Carbondale, collided with a vehicle owned by the

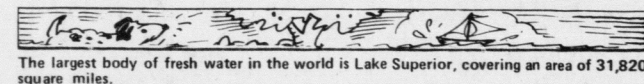
House of Flowers, 510 Main St., Forest City. Neary said he was backing into a parking space on Seventh Avenue when the mishap occurred. He wasn't hurt. Patrolman Andiora investigated.

Friday, Oct. 23
At 4 p.m. police report that a car owned by James Henan, 46 Twelfth Ave., Carbondale, was the victim of a hit-and-run while it was parked at the house. Sgt. John Barburo conducted the initial investigation.

Fires

Firemen winterized several fire hydrants throughout the city during the past week. Fire authorities said 13 hydrants were winterized on Oct. 20; Oct. 21, 25 more hydrants were winterized, and a total of 29 hydrants underwent winterization on Oct. 22.

Wednesday, Oct. 21
At 3:05 p.m. firemen were summoned to Highland Avenue where they extinguished leaves on fire. Engine 4 with driver Gus Wurmuth responded.



The largest body of fresh water in the world is Lake Superior, covering an area of 31,820 square miles.